

Message Text

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00184 201538 Z

50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 NIC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /145 W

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R 200938 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1844

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0184

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MOPS MZ

SUBJ: MARCH 15 CONSULAR CORPS BRIEFING BY MILITARY SPOKESMAN

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 112 AND A-22

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 15 BRIEFING FOR CONSULAR CORPS (PLUS PRESS REPS) GIVEN BY COL. FRADE, SPOKESMAN FOR PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND IN MOZAMBIQUE. DETAILED NOTES BEING POUCHED.

2. DURING PERIOD FEB 15 TO MARCH 15 FRELIMO ACTION REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME AS DURING PREVIOUS PERIOD: SPARSE IN NIASA, QUITE HEAVY IN CABO DELGADO, HEAVY IN TETE. GENERAL STATISTICS
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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00184 201538 Z

WERE:

FRELIMO MINES: PLANTED - 172 (130 LAST MONTH)

EXPLODED - 43 (33)
DISARMED - 123 (97)
BOOBY TRAPS: EXPLODED - 5 (8)
DISARMED - 5 (4)
PORTUGUESE MILITARY CASUALTIES: KILLED - 16 (7)
WOUNDED - 121 (109)
CIVILIAN CASUALTIES: KILLED - 12 (17)
WOUNDED - 29 (43)
KIDNAPPED - 56 (41)
FRELIMO CASUALTIES: KILLED - 51 (48)
WOUNDED - 21 (30)
CAPTURED - 27 (12)
ELEMENTS OF POPULATION TAKEN: CAPTURED - 9 (15)
SURRENDERED - 72 (359)
LIBERATED - 192 (282)
PORTUGUESE OPERATIONS: 560 (543), OF WHICH 305 (352) WERE
IN TETE, 64 IN NORTHERN BEIRA AND VILA PEREIRA DISTRICTS, 98 (99)
IN CABO DELGADO, 71 (75) IN NIASSA, AND 22 IN ZAMBESIA (NEAR
MALAWI BORDER).
FRELIMO ACTIONS: 293 (243) OF WHICH 5 (16) WERE IN NIASSA,
179 (91) IN CABO DELGADO, AND 109 (123) IN TETE.

3. COL. FRADE POINTED OUT THAT IN CABO DELGADO FRELIMO
ACTION WAS EVOLVING INTO PATTERN OF ATTACKS ON PORTUGUESE
MILITARY PERSONNEL OR INSTALLATIONS, WHEREAS IN TETE THEIR
ACTIVITIES LARGELY DIRECTED AGAINST AFRICAN CIVILIAN POPULA-
TION. HE INTERPRETED THIS AS REFLECTING FACT THAT MOST PEOPLE
OF CABO DELGADO NOW IN ALDEAMENTOS WHERE FRELIMO CAN' T GET AT
THEM, WHILE IN TETE ALDEAMENTO PROGRAM VERY MUCH STILL IN
PROCESS.

4. COFI INTERVENTION FORCE OPERATION IN MECUMBURA AREA OF
TETE HAS ENDED. COFI NOW RELAXING AND AWAITING ITS NEXT
ASSIGNMENT. MUNGARI AREA ALSO QUIET EXCEPT FOR FEW SCATTERED
INCIDENTS. MAIN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IS ALONG MOATIZE- ZOBUE
AND TETE- FURANCUNGO ROADS, AND IN AREAS NORTH OF ZAMBESE
RIVER ABOVE MAGOE, AND SOUTH OF TETE TOWNSHIP. CATTLE STEAL-
ING BY FRELIMO IS BECOMING SERIOUS PROBLEM.

5. AS RESULT OF QUESTION PLANTED BY PRESS, COL. FRADE UNDER-
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PAGE 03 LOUREN 00184 201538 Z

TOOK HOUR AND HALF ORATION ON BY NOW FAMILIAR PORTUGUESE
INTERPRETATION OF COMMUNIST WORLD STRATEGY: I. E. SOVIETS SEEK
CONTROL OVER NORTH AFRICA, CHICOMS HAVE ALREADY PENETRATED
TANZANIA, ARE WELL ON THE WAY TO DOING SAME IN ZAMBIA, EXPECT
TO PUSH THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE (OR, IF STOPPED THERE, THROUGH
MALAWI OR RHODESIA OR BOTSWANA) INTO SOUTH AFRICA. ONCE
LATTER FALLS, ROAD IS CLEAR TO TAKE OVER SOUTH AMERICA, THUS
LEADING TO ULTIMATE ISOLATION AND FALL OF NORTH AMERICA AND
EUROPE. PORTUGAL, CARRYING TORCH FOR WESTERN WORLD HERE IN

MOZAMBIQUE, WILL NEED NO HELP WHILE CONFLICT IN PRESENT PROPORTIONS , BUT IF OUTSIDE FORCES (CHICOMS) SHOULD ENTER FRAY OR PROVIDE MASSIVE ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL' S ENEMIES, PORTUGAL WOULD BE IN DIFFICULT POSITION SO LONG AS IT REMAINED, AS IT IS TODAY, ALONE.

6. COMMENT: UNANNOUNCED AND UNEXPECTED PRESENCE OF HALF DOZEN PRESS REPS AT WHAT HAD HITHERTO BEEN PRIVATE BRIEFINGS FOR CAREER CONSULAR CORPS ONLY, THREW DECIDED PALL ON PROCEEDING. ALTHOUGH BRIEFING CLEARLY LABELLED " FOR BACKGROUND ONLY", COL. FRADE KEPT OBVIOUS EYE COCKED ON PRESS REPS, WAS LESS RELAXED, MORE LONG- WINDED THAN USUAL. SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME ON GENERALITIES WITH WHICH LISTENERS ALREADY FAMILIAR AND RUSHED THROUGH STATISTICS AND FACTUAL DATA. MOVE IMPORTANT, INCREASED NUMBERS OF LISTENERS AND LENGTH OF FRADE' S PREPARED PRESENTATION PREVENTED ATTENDING CONSULS FROM ASKING AS MANY QUESTIONS AS USUAL.
VAN OSS

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